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## Turkey

## Citrus

## Grapefruit Update

**2000**

Approved by:

**Susan Schayes, Agricultural Counselor**

**U.S. Embassy Ankara**

Prepared by:

Unal Sarigedik, Agricultural Specialist

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### **Report Highlights:**

**Grapefruit production and area are continuing to expand, although at a slower pace.**

**Primary export destinations in MY 1999 included Romania, England, Saudi Arabia and Russia.**

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Includes PSD changes: No

Includes Trade Matrix: No

Unscheduled Report

Ankara [TU1], TU

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## General Summary

Citrus is produced in fourteen Turkish provinces. However, 95 percent of production is limited to the four provinces in the Mediterranean Region (Adana, Hatay, Icel, and Antalya) and two provinces in the Aegean Region (Mugla and Izmir). Citrus production increased by 54 percent for oranges, 72 percent for lemons, 210 percent for tangerines, and 500 percent for grapefruits (forecast at 120,000 during the current year), during the last two decades. Citrus area may expand further in the Cukurova Region, as farmers shift land from cotton which has relatively poor returns, but expansion to new areas has increased the vulnerability of the crop to freezes, especially in Cukurova. The temperature was between minus one and minus three degrees centigrade for several hours in the morning of January 11 and the winter is just beginning. The crop will become even more vulnerable to this type of damage if the orchards are expanded further north.

Most of the increases in the citrus area, number of trees, and production, except for grapefruits, took place before 1990. Domestic market demand and demand from the tourism industry were the primary driving forces behind these developments. Exports, which led producers to increase production, expanded significantly since the mid-1980's, as producers shifted production towards preferred export varieties. During this period, in addition to the traditional growers, professionals such as doctors, lawyers, and engineers became interested in growing citrus as a side occupation. In recent years, grapefruit orchards have continued to expand due to low cost of production and strong demand from European markets. Turkish farmers maintain contacts with growers, researchers and importers from other countries, including Europe and Israel, but there are no bilateral development projects targeting the sector.

The most critical determinant of production and area in grapefruit remains price and comparative returns. Star Ruby prices are currently around TL 50,000 per kilogram (TL535,000=US\$1). Expanded supply has reduced the domestic market price. The nominal (Turkish lira) on farm prices are at about the same levels as they were two years ago. However, the lira depreciated by about 160 percent against the US dollar during the last two years. Low prices have discouraged producers and, as a result, some growers started to sell their citrus orchards, especially the part-time farmers.

European Union markets are the primary export markets for Turkish citrus but citrus prices in the EU were relatively low during MY 1999, reportedly due to abundant production in the member countries. Demand for Turkish grapefruits in the EU markets (with prices around USD 500 CIF/MT) is reported to have increased during recent weeks, due to higher prices for U.S. grapefruits. Russia and the Ukraine, significant markets for second grade citrus, have not yet recovered from their economic crisis, and their demand remains constrained.

The following table includes new data from the State Statistics Office.

The 1999 "others not listed" category includes over 10,000 MT shipped through the Mersin Free Zone. Destinations for these shipments are not available.

Export Trade Matrix			
Country	Turkey	Metric Tons	
Commodity	Fresh Grapefruit		
Time period	Oct. - Sept.		Oct-Sept.
Exports for:	1998		1999
U.S.	0	U.S.	0
Others		Others	
Romania	6375	Romania	10397
Netherlands	5817	England	6705
England	5710	Saudi Arabia	5397
Belgium	4254	Netherlands	4776
Russia Fed.	3310	Russia Fed.	4510
Saudi Arabia	2088	Germany	3884
Germany	1571	Belgium	3313
Austria	1321	Austria	2255
Ukraine	970	France	2095
Czech Republic	535	Ukraine	1633
Hungary	330	Czech Republic	1428
Poland	289	Hungary	1356
Bulgaria	228	Bulgaria	1145
Moldavia	225	Poland	817
Slovakia	115	Italy	454
Total for Others	33138		50165
Others not Listed	546		12494
Grand Total	33685		62659